



GEORGIA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

For Immediate Release:
Thursday, October 1, 2009

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GEORGIA DOT ANNOUNCES I-75 EXIT 101 OPENING AHEAD OF SCHEDULE

CORDELE, GA. –Georgia DOT announces that the new I-75 Exit 101 northbound on ramp in Cordele, Georgia will reopen to traffic nearly two months ahead of schedule. The ramp is tentatively scheduled to open Friday night, October 2. The I-75/U.S.280/S.R.30/16th Avenue interchange is a part of the seven mile Crisp County I-75 six lane widening project.

“The ahead of schedule delivery of this ramp and bridge construction in Cordele, Georgia required a tremendous collaborative effort by Georgia DOT, Federal Highway Administration, City of Cordele, Crisp County, Archer Western Contractors, Ltd, local residents, merchants and the thousands of motorists who have been disrupted on a daily basis for nearly three months,” said Georgia DOT Board Member Johnny Floyd.

Georgia DOT collaborated with local government officials and business leaders to find ways to expedite the work. They determined the fastest way to complete this work would be to temporarily close the ramp to allow the contractor access to the entire ramp and bridge area.

“We agreed that the best plan was for crews to get in, get out and stay out,” recalled Georgia DOT Tifton District Engineer Joe Sheffield.

Georgia DOT also developed an incentive/disincentive package which allowed the contractor 152 days to complete this phase of the project. The agreement included an incentive of \$6,926.00 per day for early completion but also included a penalty of \$6,926.00 per day for finishing late.

“Merchants, residents, and motorists have eagerly watched and waited for the reopening of the I-75 Exit 101 on ramp”, noted Sheffield, “Normally we do not close ramps during construction. In this particular case the ramp warranted closing for safety reasons and to expedite the work. Given the unique challenges at this location, construction of the ramp under traffic would have been perilous for workers and drivers alike. Constructing the ramp under traffic would also have been tedious and gone on for months and months. We are excited that the ramp is back open ahead of schedule”.

Sheffield also stated, “Georgia DOT is delighted to announce the early completion of this critical phase of the project. Archer Western Contractors, Ltd deserves credit for performing this work well under the deadline. DOT would also like to express our thanks to local businesses and motorists for their cooperation and patience”.

The inconvenience of this ramp closure was necessary to facilitate completion of this portion of the \$162 million interstate reconstruction and widening project, which has an overall completion date of August 2010. The overall I-75 widening project in Crisp County is on schedule.

Georgia DOT urges travelers to call 511 for updated information about this or any other construction project on interstates and state routes. Georgia 511 is a free phone service that provides real-time traffic and travel information statewide, such as traffic conditions, incidents, lane closures, and delays due to inclement weather. Callers also can transfer to operators to request assistance or report incidents 24 hours a day, seven days a week. More information is available at www.511ga.org.

The Georgia Department of Transportation is committed to providing a safe, seamless and sustainable transportation system that supports Georgia's economy and is sensitive to both its citizens and its environment. Additional transportation revenues are imperative to grow and sustain Georgia's economic vitality and quality of life through the 21st Century. Georgia is the 3rd fastest-growing state in the nation, yet 49th in per capita spending on transportation. For general information on the Georgia DOT, please visit our Web site (www.dot.ga.gov).

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